

know it. It contains provisions that would effectively bar any asylum applications from Honduran, Guatemalan, and Salvadoran minors that are not made from a designated processing center somewhere in Central America. In other words, thousands of vulnerable children fleeing the horrors of torture, murder, and rape in the Northern Triangle and arriving at our border would be categorically barred from applying for asylum and be subject to immediate removal proceedings.

The entire point of asylum is to provide an opportunity for those who have fled from persecution and violence to seek refuge in our country. Our asylum system would become distorted beyond recognition if, instead, we punish these desperate children—punish them for the very act of fleeing for their lives.

It is remarkable that the man whose name is on the book called “The Art of the Deal” would think that Democrats would accept what amounts to a deal breaker. This Democrat will not.

I welcome a debate on the need for immigration reform. I would remind Senators that in 2013, when I was chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I issued a bipartisan bill to reform the immigration system and secure our border through the committee. We held dozens of hearings. We considered hundreds of amendments. We often met until late at night. Then, when we brought it before the Senate, it got 68 votes here on the Senate floor. Republicans and Democrats joined together to give it a supermajority. So it shows it can be done, but not while the President holds hostage all Americans, including hundreds of thousands of Federal workers and their families.

I remind the Senate that on December 19, when Republicans controlled the House and Republicans controlled the Senate, the Senate passed a bipartisan bill to fund the government by a voice vote. In other words, the Senate was for keeping the government open—until President Trump changed the mind of our Republican leader.

The President and Senate Republicans should reopen the government now, without any further foot-dragging. Congress and the Senate are a co-equal and independent branch of government. We have bipartisan bills before Congress right now to do that. My friend the majority leader has refused to bring them up while the country pays the price. This has to end. I hope he will pull up the bipartisan bills. I hope he will let us vote.

Again, I would say that we are looking weak to the rest of the world. We are looking foolish to the rest of the world. But what hurts the most are the people—not only Federal employees but contractors, private industry, and everybody else in every one of our States—who are suffering and watching our economy sink further as a result.

I see the distinguished majority leader on the floor, so I yield the floor.

ANNIVERSARY OF MARSHALL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I would like to take a moment to mark the first anniversary of the tragic shooting at Marshall County High School, which took place 1 year ago today in Benton, KY.

Bailey Holt and Preston Cope, both 15, began that morning just like any other. Their parents and friends described Bailey and Preston as bright kids with promising futures ahead, but this peaceful community was shattered when a fellow student opened fire, taking Bailey and Preston's lives, and leaving nearly 20 additional students wounded.

Their families were left to grieve, and for the past year, the community has done its best to provide comfort and put the pieces back together.

This evening, the Marshall County community will join together once again to remember the victims and to continue the healing. As they do, my prayers and those of all their fellow Kentuckians will be with them.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. STEVEN M. SOUTHWICK

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, today I wish to recognize Dr. Steven M. Southwick on the occasion of his retirement.

For over 30 years, Dr. Southwick has dedicated himself to researching combat-related PTSD. His impressive work has helped make great strides in the efforts to alleviate suffering and promote resilience for veterans. Much of the necessary progress in this field is thanks to Dr. Southwick's diligent studies.

A graduate of Yale College, the George Washington School of Medicine, and the Yale Psychiatry Residency, Dr. Southwick served in the U.S. Army before attending medical school. During his service, he was stationed in Germany. His time in the military would shape the path of his future research.

In 1985, Dr. Southwick joined the faculty of the VA Connecticut Healthcare System and the Yale Department of Psychiatry. Throughout his career, he has worked not only with combat veterans, but also with a range of trauma survivors, including athletes, astronauts, civilians with PTSD, and former prisoners of war.

Some of his many notable accomplishments include leading the first mechanistic neurobiology study of PTSD and, along with his colleagues at the National Center for PTSD, being among the first to study the biological and cognitive underpinnings of resilience among U.S. Special Forces trainees. Through such research, Dr. Southwick pioneered the study of human resilience and introduced a new perspective on trauma. I have been fortunate to learn firsthand during visits to the

center about the progress he and his colleagues are making on this complex but extremely critical condition that affects many veterans and first responders, and I commend them on their vital work.

He now serves as the medical director of the clinical neuroscience division of the VA National Center for PTSD and the Glenn H. Greenberg Professor of Psychiatry, PTSD, and Resilience at the Yale University School of Medicine. In these positions, Dr. Southwick has mentored countless future leaders in the field of PTSD research.

Dr. Southwick is the recipient of numerous honors and takes part in a number of journals, committees, and seminars in his area of expertise. Though he is recognized for his immense contributions to the realm of PTSD research, he is also highly regarded and beloved by his colleagues, students, and patients.

I applaud his lifetime of service and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Dr. Southwick on his well-earned retirement.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 31. An act to require certain additional actions in connection with the national emergency with respect to Syria, and for other purposes.

H.R. 328. An act to require the Secretary of State to design and establish a Vulnerability Disclosure Process (VDP) to improve Department of State cybersecurity and a bug bounty program to identify and report vulnerabilities of internet-facing information technology of the Department of State, and for other purposes.

H.R. 353. An act to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes.

H.R. 439. An act to amend the charter of the Future Farmers of America, and for other purposes.

H.R. 498. An act to eliminate unused sections of the United States Code, and for other purposes.

H.R. 676. An act to reiterate the support of the Congress of the United States for the